

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ernie Beffel on June 20, 2008.

In the specification:

Page 1, line 10, after "09/766,539," insert -- now pending, --.

Page 1, line 13, after "09/760,377," insert -- now pending, --.

Page 1, line 15, after "09/755,355," insert -- now pending, --.

Page 1, line 15, after "09/755,355," insert -- now pending, --.

Page 1, line 17, after "09/755,635," insert -- now pending, --.

Page 1, line 19, after "09/708,944," insert -- now U.S. Patent No. 7,212,985, --.

In the claims:

Claim 59, line 20, after "locations", insert -- for a predetermined time in the future --.

Claim 65, line 18, after "forecasting cycle," insert -- using a computer--.

Claim 65, line 19, after "a", delete "~~forecasting~~", insert --for a predetermined period--.

Reasons for Allowance

2. Claims 2-4, 12-26, 57-61 and 66-67 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art of record is Singh (U.S. 2002/0169657). Applicant's arguments filed on April 28, 2008 (Pages 9-12 in particular) are deemed to be persuasive and adequately reflect the Examiner's opinion as to why claims 1-17 and 19-20 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Romain Jeanty whose telephone number is (571)272-6732. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 7:30 am to 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Beth Boswell can be reached on (571) 272-6737. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Romain Jeanty/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3623

June 23, 2008